

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cat litter scoop holder for a cat litter scoop that has a perforate scoop portion and a handle, the cat litter scoop holder comprising:
 - a base;
 - a retainer lip extending upwardly from the base;
 - a rear wall that is spaced from the retainer lip; and
 - wherein the retainer lip and the rear wall define a scoop-receiving pocket.
2. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 1 wherein the base is disposed toward a generally horizontal surface, the pocket is vee-shaped, and the cat litter scoop is disposed such that its longitudinal axis is generally vertical when it is received in the pocket.
3. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 1 wherein the pocket has a trough at its bottom that is perforate and that collects matter from the cat litter scoop when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket.
4. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 3 wherein the scoop portion of the cat litter scoop has an edge at its free end and the trough is disposed adjacent the edge of the scoop portion of the cat litter scoop when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket of the cat litter scoop holder.

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5. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 3 wherein the base of the cat litter scoop holder includes a bottom upon which the cat litter scoop holder can be stood upright on a horizontal surface, the bottom includes a hollow that, together with the horizontal surface and the cat litter scoop holder, forms a retention chamber that receives matter from the scoop that has passed through the perforate trough.

6. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 1 further comprising an inclined skirt that extends outwardly from adjacent the retainer lip to a pedestal that prevents tipping of the cat litter scoop holder when it is disposed upright on a generally horizontal surface.

7. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 1 further comprising a bracket that removably mounts the cat litter scoop holder to a generally vertical surface, the bracket comprising a spacer that spaces the cat litter scoop holder from the vertical surface, a mounting tab that is used to mount the bracket to the vertical surface, and a pair of spaced apart fingers that each engage the cat litter scoop holder to releasably attach the cat litter scoop holder to the bracket.

8. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 1 wherein the cat litter scoop holder has a pair of spaced apart sidewalls disposed on or adjacent the pocket with each sidewall including an opening therein that promotes ventilation through the cat litter scoop when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket.

9. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 8 wherein each sidewall opening is generally vee-shaped.

10. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 9 wherein the pocket is generally vee-shaped to receive the cat litter scoop wherein the scoop portion of the cat litter scoop has a nose with a generally vee-shaped cross section taken along a longitudinal direction.

11. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 10 wherein the pocket and each sidewall opening has an apex disposed adjacent the base and each sidewall further comprises a flange that truncates the apex of each sidewall opening and constrains side-to-side movement of the cat litter scoop when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket.

12. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 11 further comprising a spacer disposed adjacent the apex of the pocket and that extends inwardly from the rear wall of the cat litter scoop holder.

13. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 11 wherein (a) the scoop portion of the cat litter scoop has a pair of sidewalls that each have an edge, (b) the handle is curved, (c) the handle curves beyond the sidewall edges, and (d) the cat litter scoop holder further comprises a spacer in the pocket that is disposed adjacent the apex of the pocket and that extends inwardly from the rear wall to keep the cat litter scoop in an upright position when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket.

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14. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 1 wherein the rear wall further comprises an inturned flange disposed on either side of the cat litter scoop when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket and each inturned flange limits side-to-side movement of the cat litter scoop.

15. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 1 wherein (a) the rear wall further comprises a pair of spaced apart flanges that are each inturned toward the retainer lip with one of the inturned flanges disposed on one side of the cat litter scoop when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket and the other one of the inturned flanges disposed on another side of the cat litter scoop when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket, and (b) the inturned flanges limit side-to-side movement of the cat litter scoop when the cat litter scoop is received in the pocket to help keep the cat litter scoop in an upright position.

16. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 15 further comprising a pair of spaced apart sidewalls that each have an opening therein with one of the sidewalls disposed adjacent one side of the pocket and the other one of the sidewalls disposed adjacent the other side of the pocket, wherein the pocket has a generally triangular cross section with an apex adjacent the base, wherein one of the sidewalls includes a flanged portion disposed on one side of the pocket adjacent the apex, wherein the other one of the sidewalls includes a flanged portion disposed on the opposite side of the pocket adjacent the apex, and wherein the flanged portions also help limit side-to-side movement of a cat litter scoop

received in the pocket.

17. A cat litter scoop holder for a cat litter scoop that has a perforate scoop portion and a handle, the cat litter scoop holder comprising:

a base upon which the cat litter scoop holder can stand upright on a generally horizontal surface;

a rear wall that has a pair of intumed flanges with one of the flanges disposed on one side of the cat litter scoop and being curved and generally following a part of the outer peripheral contour of the scoop portion when the scoop is received in the pocket of the cat litter scoop holder and the other one of the flanges disposed on the other side of the cat litter scoop and being curved and generally following another part of the outer peripheral contour of the scoop portion when the scoop is received in the pocket of the cat litter scoop holder;

an outwardly inclined retainer wall that extends outwardly from adjacent the rear wall; and

wherein the retainer wall and the rear wall define a scoop-receiving pocket that orients a cat litter scoop received in the pocket in an upright position with its handle extending upwardly beyond the pocket.

18. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 17 wherein the base, the rear wall, and the retainer wall are comprised of molded plastic.

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19. The cat litter scoop holder of claim 17 further comprising a spacer disposed in the pocket that bears against a cat litter scoop received in the pocket to help orient the cat litter scoop in an upright position.

20. A cat litter scoop holder for a cat litter scoop that has a perforate scoop portion and a handle, the cat litter scoop holder comprising:

a base upon which the cat litter scoop holder can stand upright on a generally horizontal surface;

a rear wall that has a pair of intumed flanges with one of the flanges disposed on one side of the cat litter scoop and being curved and generally following a part of the outer peripheral contour of the scoop portion when the scoop is received in the pocket of the cat litter scoop holder and the other one of the flanges disposed on the other side of the cat litter scoop and being curved and generally following another part of the outer peripheral contour of the scoop portion when the scoop is received in the pocket of the cat litter scoop holder;

an inclined retainer wall that extends outwardly from adjacent the rear wall;

wherein the retainer wall and the rear wall define a scoop-receiving pocket; and

a bracket that releasably engages the rear to releasably mount the cat litter scoop holder to the wall.